

Denali Commission Planning Work Group

Next meeting: 9/24/09

Draft - Notes for the meeting held 8/19/09

Tara Jollie, Division of Community & Regional Affairs (DCRA) – State Co-Chair
(presiding)

Berney Richert, Economic Development Administration – Federal Co- Chair

In attendance: Tara Jollie, Ruth St. Amour – Division of Community and Regional Affairs; Shirley Kelly – U.S. Economic Development Administration; Jason Meyer, Bob Pawlowski, Jacqui Yeagle – Denali Commission; Deborah Vo – Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association; Clarke Hemphill – Corps of Engineers; Mary Goolie, Martha Barber – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Janet Hall – RurAL CAP/Denali Commission; Sue Cogswell – Prince William Sound Economic Development District; Andy Varner, Brett Welcher – Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference; Connie Irrigoo – Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership; Mark Allred – ANCSA Regional Association/Denali Commission; Jimmy Smith – DCRA/Denali Commission; Dean You – City of Atka; Liz Cheney – First Alaskans Institute

Via teleconference: Alyssa Shanks – Alaska Department of Labor; Christi Bell, Casey Bradshaw – UA Center for Economic Development; Dean Westlake – NANA Regional Corporation; Gina Shirey-Potts – Alaska Department of Natural Resources; Charlene Stern – RurAL CAP; Doreen Lampe – North Slope Borough; Indra Arriaga – Information Insights; Ingemar Mathiasson – Northwest Arctic Borough

Renewable Energy Funding in Alaska – Jason Meyer, Denali Commission

- The goals of the Denali Commission's Emerging Energy Technology Grant program include filling funding gaps and demonstrating needs. The project solicitation helped identify the wide range of projects in need of funding.
- Future funding opportunities include Senate Bill 150, and federal sources.
- The Denali Commission program has \$4 million to award for demonstration phase projects, and received applications totaling \$29.5 million. Applications included proposals for batteries and storage, electric vehicles for rural areas, hydrokinetic projects such as in-river turbines, and seawater heat pumps.
- After project selection, the program will be managed by the UAF Alaska Center for Energy and Power (<http://www.uaf.edu/acep/>). ACEP will conduct data collection and analysis on the projects.

Broadband funding and projects – Bob Pawlowski, Denali Commission

- U.S. Department of Agriculture has funding available for broadband projects, including \$400 million for grants for Remote Area projects (<http://www.broadbandusa.gov/>).

- The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/>) has funds available for broadband infrastructure and public computer centers.
- Governor Parnell has designated the Denali Commission as the state's designated entity for receipt of a grant under the State Broadband Data and Development grant program. (see link at <http://www.alaska.edu/broadband/>)
- The Denali Commission has applied for funds for broadband mapping of the entire state. The mapping would be prepared in GIS format, and updated annually.

News and Updates

- Dean Westlake introduced Ingemar Mathiasson, Energy Coordinator for Northwest Arctic Borough.
- Dean also noted that the Northwest Arctic Borough has formed a regional broadband task force (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/nwabroadband/>). The task force is focused on building the productivity of the end user, and has applied for funding for the Entrepreneurial Business Incubator.
- George Canelos announced that the Alaska Clearinghouse website (<http://www.akclearinghouse.com/>), for news on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding opportunities, will be continued until December.
- Doreen Lampe expressed concern for the North Slope region to benefit from oil and gas development in proportion to the impact. The region has proposed a gasoline processing plant, and use of Deadhorse as a freight hub for surrounding villages.
- Dean Westlake raised the issue of fuel prices in rural communities, and the use of price-blending. He expressed concern for the public's reaction to the price of fuel, given that many fuel businesses have local monopolies. An effort to "trust, but verify" how much fuel is left before adding new supplies and blending prices would protect the reputation of the fuel business and assuage public fears of price gouging.
- An update on the EPA Brownfields Grants program is provided on a separate hand-out.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, at 10 a.m., at the Denali Commission, and is to be chaired by Berney Richert.